

(Washington, DC) – Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today hosted more than 50 educators and leaders in math and science education for another in his series of “D.C. Days.” Participants met with policymakers and thought leaders, discussing ways to strengthen science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education policy.

“I am excited to welcome to Washington the men and women who recognize how important math and science education is to our students and our society,” Holt said. “Scientists and educators should not be the only ones who care about science and math education. Those concerned about our long-term economic health should care. Those concerned about the ability of future generations to compete in a new global economy should care. Those concerned about future innovation and progress should care.”

Holt has been a leader in Congress to strengthen math and science education. Since 2002, Rep. Holt has helped increase funding for the Department of Education’s Math and Science Partnerships by more than \$150 million. These partnerships improve student achievement in mathematics and science by combining colleges with K-12 school districts in order to support math and science teachers with continued training.

He wrote a number of initiatives in the Higher Education Opportunity Act (H.R. 4137), which was signed into law on August 14, 2008. These provisions included the establishment of loan forgiveness for employees working in STEM fields, and the creation of Science and Technology Advanced Foreign Language Grants, which award funding to college and university programs that encourage students to develop science and technological knowledge. Holt also helped establish the Mathematics & Science Scholars Program, which provides grants and loan forgiveness to students who commit to five consecutive years of service in a math or science field after graduation. With Rep. Holt’s support, the Higher Education Opportunity Act also authorized the creation of a National STEM Database to provide students with information on financial assistance for postsecondary and graduate programs in STEM. This database will help capable students who are interested in STEM careers find scholarships to further their studies.

Wednesday’s speakers included representatives from the Carnegie Corporation of New York,

the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association of Universities, and the House Education and Labor Committee. Also speaking were Sally Shuler, the Executive Director of the Smithsonian's Institution's National Science Resource Center, Steve Robinson, Special Advisor to the Secretary of Education, Rep. Mike Honda (CA-15), and Rep. Vern Ehlers (MI-3).

D.C. Days are day-long meetings where residents from New Jersey can discuss the latest in federal policies with Holt and other leaders in Washington, and where those in Washington can learn about the concerns and initiatives of those in attendance. Holt most recently hosted D.C. Days with primary care providers and first responders.

Attending the day-long were leaders in education from across New Jersey, including:

Chris Anderson, New Jersey Technology Education Association Dr. Anne N. Catena,
Princeton University

Dr.

Margaret Ann Chappell, The Stars Challenge

Dr. Stephen Chappell, The Stars Challenge

Deborah Cook, Rutgers University

Richard DeLisi, Rutgers University

Maria DeLucia, Middlesex County College

Dr. John Dobosiewicz, Kean University

Anndria Gaerity, PSEG

Dr. Donald Generals, Mercer County Community College

Robert Goodman, Bergen County Technical High School

Rosemarie Gorini, Raritan Valley Community College

Lynne Greenblatt, Wyeth/ American Chemical Society

Yvonne Greenbaum, Mercer County Community College

Rose Higgins, NJ Marine Sciences Consortium/ NJ Sea Grant

David Hoo, Math Learning Exchange

Dr. Deborah Ives, Association of Mathematics Teachers of NJ

Dave Janosz, New Jersey Technology Education Association

Lavinia Kumar, Middletown Public Schools

Jean Kutcher, Rider University

Chan Leung, NJ State 4-H Association

Dr. Laura Y. Lorentzen, Kean University, NJ Center for Science, Technology, and Math Education

Charles Marsee, Retired Science Educator

Janice McDonnel, Rutgers University, Science, Engineering, and Technology 4-H

Elizabeth McGrath, Stevens Institute of Technology

Ron Mezzadri, Fair Lawn School District

Frederick Montana, Middlesex County College

Eva Nagy, Franklin Township Schools

David Niemierowski, New Jersey Technology Education Association

Dr. Michael Palladino, Monmouth University, School of Science

Elyse Pernick, Rutgers University, CMSCE

Antonella Pompo, Raritan Valley Community College

Joseph Potenza, Rutgers University

Dr. John T. Roberts, Franklin Township Schools

Lisa Rothenburger, Somerset County 4-H Youth Development

Joe Schwartz, East Brunswick Public Schools

Harriet Schweitzer, Rutgers University, Center for Mathematics, Science, and Computer Education

Barbara Seidman, Middlesex County Academy for Allied Health and Biomedical Sciences

Edward Seto, Franklin Township Schools

Anthony Shallop, Middletown Township Board of Education

Sharon Sherman, Rider University

Dr. Ronald Todd, DWL Associates, LLC

Barbara Tozzi, Brookdale Community College

Dr. Diane Trainor, Middlesex County College

Linda Treilman, Association of Mathematics Teachers of NJ

Judith Wilson, Princeton Public Schools

Michael Zapicchi, West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District/ Principal

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